Power generation through Atomic Energy

†308. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atomic energy accounts for a very small part of the total power generation;

(b) the status of India in comparison to other countries in respect of power generation utilising atomic energy; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in our country the plants generating power utilising atomic energy are laess efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The current share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country is about 3%

(b) The world average share of nuclear power is about 16%. While developed countries like France, Sweden, Germany, Japan and USA have nuclear share ranging from 78% to 20%, the share of nuclear power of some of the developing counries like Brazil and China is comparable to that of India. The share of nuclear power is country specific depending upon other available energy options.

(c) No Sir. The nuclear power plants in the country are quite efficient. The nuclear share in the total generation in the country is on account of a small capacity base of 2770 MWe (2.4% of the total generating capacity in the country).

Target to Achieve Rural Tele-Density

309. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken to achieve rural tele-density of the VPTs in all villages and to provide rural community plan by 2007; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) and (b) M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been awarded the work of providing VPTs in 66,822 unconnected villages in the country, excluding villages which are depopulated, naxalite/insurgency infested, having populaiton of less than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas. These VPTs are planned to be provided progressively by November, 2007.

Also, M/s BSNL and M/s Reliance Info-comm. Limited (RIL) have entered into agreements with the office of Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund for the provision of 46,253 rural community phones in villages where population exceeds 2000 and no public call facility exists as per details given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Service area-wise details of provision of rural community phones in villag&s.

SI.No.	Service Area	M/s BSNL	M/s RIL
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3677	1865
2.	Assam	1913	0
3.	Bihar	1753	3254
4.	Gujarat	1801	300
5.	Himachal Prades	95	0
6.	Haryana	145	626
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	122	0
8.	Karnataka	1528	669
9.	Kerala	1	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2386	0
11.	Maharashtra	3140	305
12.	North-East	698	0
13.	Orissa	936	0
14.	Punjab	43	225
15.	Rajasthan	1416	0

SI.No.	Service Area	M/s BSNL	M/s. RIL
16.	Tamil Nadu	1424	1769
17.	Uttar Pradsh(East)	2210	4721
18.	Uttar Pradesh(West)	434	3183
19.	West Bengal	1072	4542
	TOTAL	24794	21459

PCO Connections at Panchayat level in Chhattisgarh

†310. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that great diffculty is being faced in getting a PCO connection at Panchayat level in the rural areas of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that irregularities are being committed in the quality of telephone instrument while providing a new connection; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. This is mainly on account of non-availability of Fixed Wireless Telephone (FWT) instruments which are likely to be supplied shortly

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Optic Fibre Link to Pakistan

311. SHRIMATI N.P DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend optic fibre link to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received In Hindi.